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6.813 HW2: Heuristic evaluation (Free Food Foundation)
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Note: The project does not render listings correctly in Firefox but works in Chrome.

1. Labels (eg. EndDate, EndTime, and MiddleEastern) do not match the real world. These variable names should be separated into words. (real world, cosmetic)

2. The date formatting should also include appropriate commas or otherwise be changed to a standard format. (real world, cosmetic)

3. Restaurant is misspelled on the create listing page, and capitalization is inconsistent on this page as well compared to others. (real world, cosmetic)

4. The title of the main page is called "MIT FoodListings." If "FoodListings" isn't actually part of the project title, there should be spaces between words. (real world, cosmetic)

5. It is hard to tell easily which date something is occurring from the main page. The date and time should both be prominent. Currently, only the time is prominent, but this could easily be expanded to include at least the month and day. Alternatively, the listings could be sorted and grouped by date while leaving the display of individual listings the same. (learnability, major)

6. The time selection widget is cumbersome. It's difficult to enumerate 24 hours of a day and 60 minutes of an hour by a slider control. It would be easier to allow the user to enter the time or select the minutes/hours directly. Figure 1 shows a user attempting to enter a time. (error prevention and efficiency, major)

7. Navigating through tabs is good, so the user can review information before submitting. (error prevention, good)

8. The time format is in 24-hour for the selection mechanism but displayed as 12-hour on the main page. The time format should be the same all around. The date format is also different, but this is acceptable for inputting in a date widget versus displaying on the main page. (consistency, cosmetic)

9. On the "details" tab, the top heading in bold and the sequence of form elements is not the same. It would probably suffice to just have labels next to the input fields. See Figure 1. (consistency, minor)

10. Instead of having a search button on the left side of the main page, the right side should update whenever a user clicks/unclicks a checkbox. This saves the user an unnecessary step of clicking search to trigger an update. (visibility and system status, minor)

11. Instructions for entering form data are provided, perhaps superfluously. (help/documentation, good)

12. The interface has some nice affordances. For example, hovering over the event title highlights it and changes the cursor to a hand, which indicates clicking it provides more details. Figure 4

shows the highlight feature. (help/documentation, good)

13. When making a new listing, the options are too wide, and because they don't look like buttons or clickable items, it's unclear at first how to make a selection. The affordances used on the listing title as mentioned above would be very useful here. Figure 2 shows the initial state of the create listing page. (learnability, major)

14. The interface is nice and simple. However, aesthetically, the black text on red background in the header does not provide enough useful contrast to read the text easily. (aesthetics, minor)

15. Whitespace could be used more effectively to group the cuisine type and event time selections on the left bar. The headings should be grouped closer to the checkboxes they describe to easily distinguish groups. The left bar can be seen in Figures 3 and 4. (design/aesthetics, minor)

16. The interface provides many ways for the user to be completely in control. When creating new food events, the tabs/navigation buttons allow the user to see what he has entered into the fields. The user can also filter which food events are displayed on the main page. (user control, good)

17. There is a lot of dead space on the create listing page. If screen size is at a premium, this might be intended, but having only one task/input option on each tab might be inefficient if it's a standard (not mobile) web page. (efficiency, minor)

18. A drop down menu might be more efficient in terms of space than clicking a type of cuisine on the create listing page. (efficiency, minor)

19. Listing information is scattered on the main page. While the start and end date/times for listings are visible, the start time is up on the listing title, but the start date is under it. The end date and time are both listed under the expanded version of an event. It's hard to easily glance at listings and extract the start and end date/times quickly. Redundantly repeating information under the details might work too. (efficiency, major)

20. Showing the types of cuisine (recognition) instead of having to recall them is helpful. Recall isn't required except for specific details of creating a listing which could not be provided by the interface itself. (recognition vs recall, good)

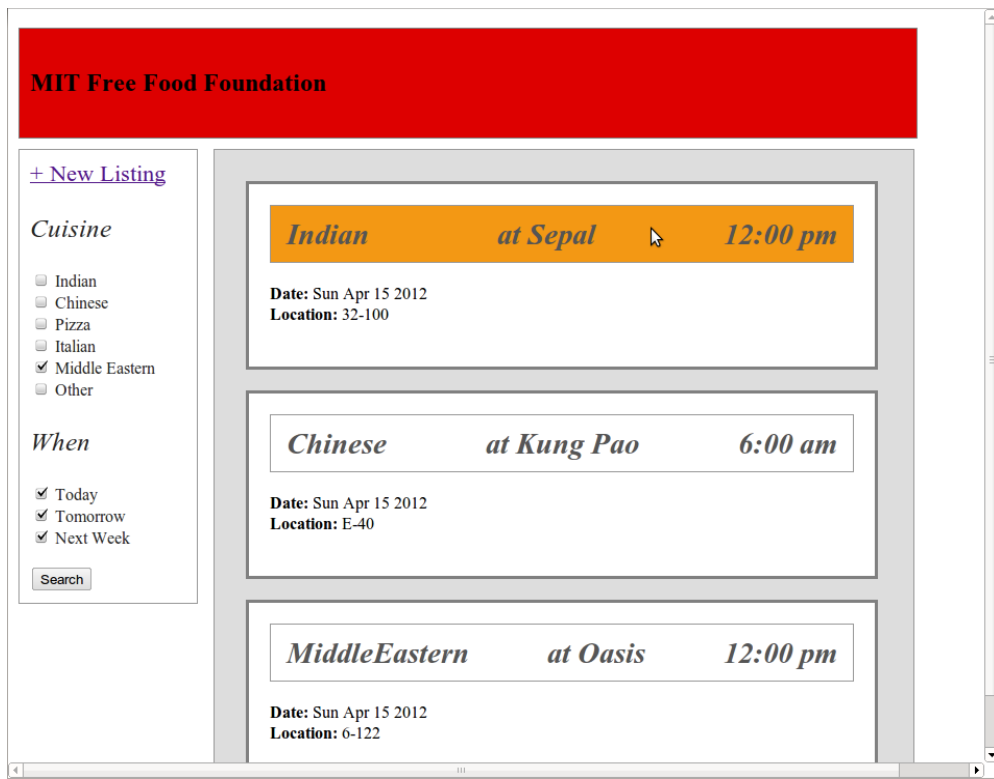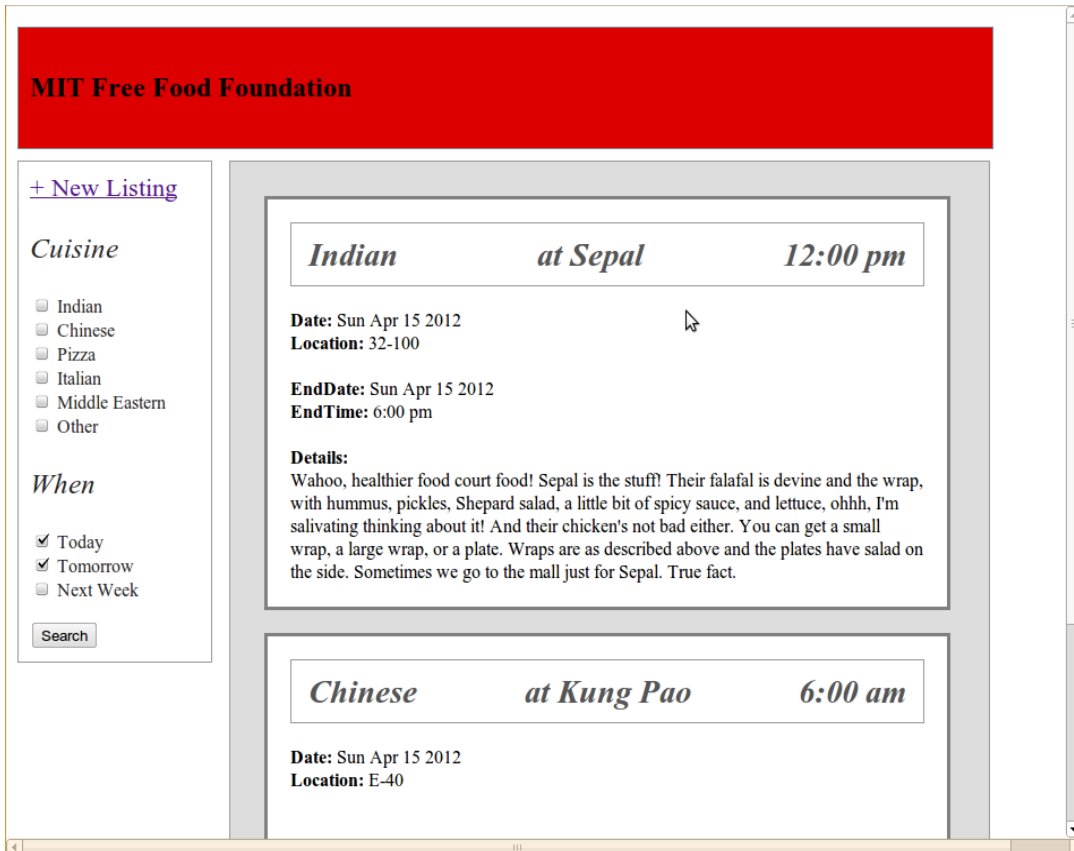Figure 1: Date and time input

Figure 2: Cuisine selection

Figure 3: Highlight over listing when hovering

Figure 4: Expanded details